

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims of the application are reproduced in full, with amendments shown underlined and lined through. Please substitute the following claims for the claims of the original application.

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S.*
1. (Currently amended) A blood vessel wall defining device for repairing an aneurysm comprising in combination,
- ~~an~~ ~~per cutaneously~~ ~~percutaneously~~-insertable structural frame extending between a first end and a second end ~~and~~ having an unexpanded diameter which is smaller than the diameter of said blood vessel for said structural frame to be ~~per cutaneously~~ ~~percutaneously~~ placed into said blood vessel, said structural frame being expandable to form a generally cylindrical structural skeleton having a slightly larger diameter than said blood vessel to facilitate the securing of said structural skeleton in position in said blood vessel;
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said structural frame including a plurality of longitudinal support rods; said support rods being attached to a tubular sheath for at least a portion thereof; a plurality of expandable ring stents longitudinally displaced internally of said tubular sheath;
- said ring stents having a smaller deployment diameter prior to insertion into a ~~blood vessel~~ ~~use~~ and an expanded diameter in the uncoiled position;
- said ring stents having ratchet means for locking in an expanded position internally against the inner surface of said sheath.

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~~2. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said tubular sheath extends less than the full length of said longitudinal support rods, leaving a portion of said longitudinal support rods uncovered for the passage of blood between the uncovered portion of said longitudinal support rods.~~

~~4. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said tubular sheath forms a passage therethrough between said first and second ends that provides fluid access between the rods so that branches off the blood vessel can be supplied with blood.~~

~~✓ 4. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said ring stents are expandable to selected progressively uncoiled positions so that the structural frame can be expanded to different breadths along its length.~~

~~✓ 5. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said longitudinal support rods are flexible and are able to conform to the shape of the vessel between said ring stents.~~

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~~6. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said sheath surrounds said structural frame, and said ring stents engage said structural frame.~~ New matter

~~✓ 7. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said ring stents are each arranged in a coil and are expandable for urging the structural frame toward engagement with the interior surface of an irregularly shaped vessel.~~

- ~~8. (New) A blood vessel wall defining device for repairing an aneurysm comprising
in combination:~~

~~a percutaneously-insertable structural frame including a plurality of elongated flexible support members arranged approximately parallel to one another and formed in a tubular array for insertion into a vessel of the human body,
a tubular open ended sheath [new matter]
extending about said frame for collapsibly supporting
said elongated flexible support members in a tubular configuration between an unexpanded diameter and expanded diameters.~~

~~a plurality of ring stents positioned at spaced intervals along the lengths of and within said tubular array of elongated flexible support members, and arranged to urge said elongated flexible support members from their unexpanded diameter when said device is to pass through a vessel to their expanded diameter when said device is to be expanded into engagement with a vessel,~~

~~said elongated flexible support members being devoid of said sheath at a position along the length of said elongated flexible support members whereby blood may pass between the elongated flexible support members, and~~

~~said ring stents configured to expand in response to the inflation of a balloon catheter to various diameters for causing said device to engage an irregularly shaped vessel .~~

- ~~9. (New) A blood vessel wall defining device for repairing an aneurysm comprising
in combination:~~

~~a plurality of elongated flexible support members arranged approximately parallel~~

to one another and formed in a tubular array for insertion into a blood vessel of the human body.

a plurality of ring stents positioned at spaced intervals along the lengths of and within said tubular array of elongated flexible support members, and arranged to urge said elongated flexible support members from their unexpanded diameter when said device is to pass through a vessel to their expanded diameter when said device is to be expanded into engagement with a vessel.

said ring stents configured to expand in response to the inflation of a balloon catheter to various diameters for causing said device to engage an irregularly shaped vessel, and

said elongated flexible support members configured to support the blood vessel at positions between said ring stents.

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